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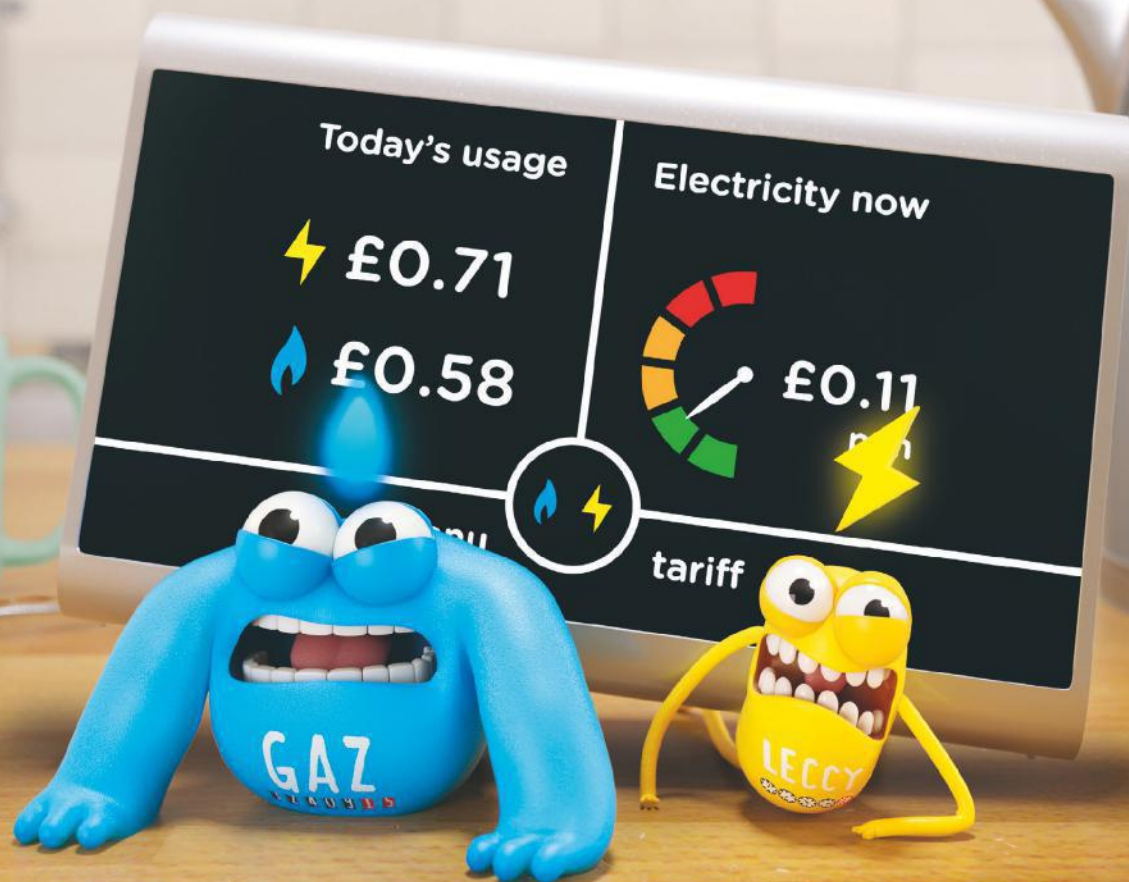
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NME

Hello...



THIS WEEK I WAS reminded that there are lots of good eggs in the world – people who really care about others and do what they can to help them out whenever and however possible. It was during this year's NME #Lifehacks that this all came back to me, specifically while watching our own Leonie Cooper interview this week's cover star Loyle Carner and footballing legend Eni Aluko onstage in front of a room of NME readers.

They were there to talk about the things that had inspired them in life and helped them on their way to success, but what resonated most was hearing about the projects that they both set up in their names to help young people trying to make their way in the world. Loyle runs a cookery school for people with ADHD called Chilli Con Carner (!), Eni has a foundation that helps people into interesting jobs in sports. Both are valuable, righteous and a total positive force that can change lives for the better.

I'm a big believer that people should use their platform for good whenever possible. Loyle Carner and Eni Aluko are great examples of successful people getting that right. Check out all of the amazing content from #Lifehacks at NME.com.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Mahalia p33

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The British rapper looks back on his astonishing breakthrough year

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Stag stag stag!

Prince Harry's getting married – and you're invited to the stag do

YEAH, BUT DO WE GET A bank holiday? Prince Harry and *Suits* actor Meghan Markle announced their engagement this week and there was but one question on everybody's lips. The answer, most tragically, is no – there will not be a bank holiday to toast this most glorious union. Stop all the clocks, shelve all the cans. Still, a parody Facebook event went viral, which is almost the same.

At the time of writing, almost 170,000 people are 'interested' in attending Prince Harry's stag do, while 65,000 are confirmed and up for the sesh. Details are scarce, but let's assume it's beers at 'Spoons, cocktails at Mahiki and a royal wee in the street sometime around 3am.

Harry proposed during "a typical night in" while the couple were "trying to roast a chicken". For more romantically challenged lovers, this could end with a burnt bird and a row about the location of the remote control – "*Don't Tell The Bride* is about to start!" – but the pair have enjoyed an idyllic union since meeting 16 months ago.

Once they announced the engagement, Meghan revealed that she'll step away from *Suits* to focus on humanitarian work. A noble move, for sure, but a really humanitarian effort would be allowing us non-royal types to get off our mash for one blissful bank holiday. Ideally the day after the stag do, which is apparently on May 10 next year. Let's get the change.org petition going, shall we?

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The pop prince

Could any of these famous friends be named Harry's best man?



FOO FIGHTERS

The Prince once slapped jet-lagged drummer Taylor Hawkins to wake him up for a gig.



KANYE WEST

Harry was snapped with Yeezy and Diddy at an after-show party back in 2007.



THE KILLERS

Ronnie Vannucci Jr claims the Royal is a "great kisser", but did not elaborate. We must know more.



COLDPLAY

Harry sang 'Up&Up' with the band at a charity do in Kensington Palace. Supergroup name: Coldprince.

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The last 10 Godlike Geniuses

Get on your knees and pray



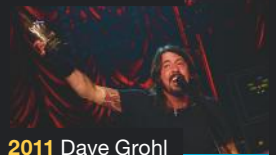
2008 Manic Street Preachers



2009 The Cure



2010 Paul Weller



2011 Dave Grohl



2012 Noel Gallagher



2013 Johnny Marr



2014 Blondie



2015 Suede



2016 Coldplay



2017 Pet Shop Boys

It's Liam for Godlike Genius

It couldn't have been anyone else, could it, really

ON FEBRUARY 14, LIAM Gallagher will swagger his handsome self down to O2 Academy Brixton to pick up the Godlike Genius trophy at the VO5 NME Awards 2018. After that, he'll get on stage and do what he does best: sing some of the greatest rock'n'roll tunes the world has ever known. Here's what he has to say on the matter.

"I wanna thank the NME for their Godlike Genius award. It's about fking time as far as I'm concerned."**

Wanna see Liam at the VO5 NME Awards 2018?

O2 Academy Brixton, February 14. It's gonna be biblical

At 9am on Wednesday December 6, there will be an exclusive pre-sale on NME.com, including some pit access tickets for those who wanna look LG in the eye. Then, at 9am on Friday December 8, tickets will go on general sale.

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Anne-Marie is about to conquer 2018

Get to know the former Rudimental member and full-time hitmaker

ED SHEERAN'S ONE OF HER BEST MATES

"We've been friends for nearly 10 years now. We've actually done a song together which is going to be on my [new] album. We definitely want to work with each other more, it's just the time."

SHE'S CHOOSY ABOUT WHO SHE COLLABORATES WITH

"It doesn't even matter to me who it is, I just listen to the song. If the song connects with me and is a really great message, I love doing it. For [Clean Bandit's 2016 single] 'Rockabye', I was just blown away. It had been a long time since I'd heard a song with a message like that – about being a single parent and caring for your child."

HER 2018 ALBUM IS ABOUT PEOPLE POWER

"I always try and make people feel that they're strong enough to say something – anything to anyone – even if it's to a stranger, or if they're just writing a tweet. We need to stand together in tough times, because one person won't really make a difference."

SHE GREW UP AS AN INDIE KID

"I was surrounded by people that were listening to a lot of pop music. [But] I listened to Grizzly Bear or Enter Shikari. I used to really love dubstep. When Enter Shikari started coming out, I loved going to their live shows. And they talked about politics, so that was very interesting."



Medium rare

We got spooky with Medium Fleur – Lana Del Rey's spirit guide – ahead of her live show at London's Islington Assembly Hall on December 5

When did you discover your talent as a medium?

"It was always there, so I didn't recognise it as something that I could do differently from everybody else. When I was a child it was very three-dimensional. People were just as real-looking as you and I."

Could you tell us a little bit about your work with Lana Del Rey?

"We just clicked. We're good friends now. If you go see a medium, you have to feel like that person clicks with you. Lana is an incredibly spiritual person herself."

Have you ever been approached to work on a criminal investigation?

"Yeah, I do work from time to time on cases. Generally I work on cold cases. The way the

justice system works at the moment is that mediums aren't consulted until it's a last-ditch effort. It would be really wonderful if mediums were approached from the get-go."

Are you able to communicate with specific deceased people? There are a few famous musicians we'd like a chat with...

"You would have to know the person you want to connect to. I can't just throw up a flame because you say, 'I wanna talk to Jimi Hendrix'. You would have to know him personally or there would have to be a very strong connection there. So that is a limitation."

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ANTON DU BEKE

The *Strictly* man got down with the kids, covering 'I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor'.



BIG SHAQ

Noel G called 'Man's Not Hot' the "funniest thing I've ever seen" and suggested the pair collaborate. Hot!



THE WALKING DEAD

Viewing figures are in decline – actress Pollyanna McIntosh said people can't handle the ultra-gore.



OLLY MURS

Accidentally caused widespread panic by falsely tweeting about gunshots in Selfridges.



CineJam comes to Manchester

NME and Zig-Zag present CineJam – celebrating music and film with *24 Hour Party People* and *Everything Everything*

AFTER THE SUCCESS of this summer's Bastille-curated CineJam events in London, we're going north. On Tuesday December 12, NME and Zig-Zag present CineJam in Manchester – taking over Band on the Wall with a special screening of cult movie *24 Hour Party People*, starring Steve Coogan as the Manchester music legend Tony Wilson. The acclaimed comedy

covers the rise and fall of Factory Records. Then there'll be performances from ones to watch False Advertising and homecoming heroes *Everything Everything*. In addition to this we'll be screening a panel discussion with Manchester scene luminaries, discussing the past, present and future of Manchester music. Here they are, telling us why they love Manchester so much.

JEN HINGLEY

Vocals/guitar, *False Advertising*

"Manchester has a very specific musical history that we all know about and as artists kind of exist in the shadow of: Madchester, Oasis and The Smiths. This presents a unique environment to a new artist given that many people seem to still be preoccupied by it to some extent. I love the independent, creative community and the size – it's like all the best bits of London squashed into a place a fraction the size."

MATTHEW KRYSKO

Director of music, *The Warehouse Project*

"My favourite thing about Manchester is its ability to welcome, absorb and then amplify proudly a multitude of cultures. I've been here for nearly 18 years now and it still astounds me. Secondly – the obvious one for me – music. It's what brought me here, [made me] make a life, then not want to leave. Not just its rich history, but its continuing ability to produce young artists, venues, nights and scenes, both big and small."

Steve Coogan as Tony Wilson in *24 Hour Party People*

NME AND ZIG-ZAG PRESENT
CINE JAM
MANCHESTER

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

JEREMY PRITCHARD

Bass, *Everything Everything*

"Music – it's been so engrained in the culture here for decades. People are so used to bands and artists as part of the local fabric, and your meagre artist's living goes a lot further! The scene is so diverse and dense, but it's welcoming and accessible. A few weeks into *Everything Everything*'s existence we got our first gig just by walking into Night & Day and asking for one. There's so much infrastructure for new artists, a great network of imaginative promoters and venues. The spirit of radicalism has also been part of the local mindset since suffragism. All of the classic Manc bands respected what came before them and yet did their own thing and actually sound nothing alike. All we're doing is carrying on in that spirit."

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Let there be #Lifehacks!

These are the best things that happened at NME's creative careers slamdown #Lifehacks at Islington Metal Works last week

#LIFE HACKS

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ENI ALUKO AND LOYLE CARNER

Chelsea Ladies and England footballer Eniola Aluko and Croydon rapper Loyle Carner headlined #Lifehacks, NME's event with University of Salford and youth initiative Create Jobs, which aimed to inspire young people interested in starting out in the creative industries. "You can always go to uni later on in life," said Aluko on the lead panel. "There's no set way. [But] if you are at uni, work hard. Strive for your best."

INSPIRING DISCUSSIONS

One key discussion was about how to make positive change in creative industries. Campaigners Paula Akpan, Paris Lees, Amelia Cooper and Alex Manzi discussed how they strive to make a difference. Lees argued there's nothing holding back young people from achieving their goals. "You can go and be the first person to do something," she said. "There are all these invisible barriers around all of us, none more loudly than in our own heads. It's cheesy, but be the change you want to see."

AMAZING PANELLISTS

A standout panel, 'Things we wish we'd known at 18', featured insights from MOBO founder Kanya King MBE, Universal Music UK's Jonathan Badyal, gal-dem's Liv Little, and University of Salford's Dr Kirsty Fairclough. "I see students putting pressure on themselves to be perfect," said Fairclough. "You can make mistakes, you can learn from it."

REALLY TASTY SNACKS

Guests could dine out on inspirational creative advice while also filling up on free food and drink, provided by Sub Cult, Doughnut Time, Karma Cola and Ugly Drinks. Nom and, indeed, nom.

A SECRET TOM GRENNAN GIG

The night was topped off by a secret gig from rising star Tom Grennan, who showcased songs from next year's already ace sounding debut album 'Lighting Matches'.

NME'S NEXT #LIFEHACKS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN MAY 2018



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THIS WEEK

The curse of the terrible Christmas song

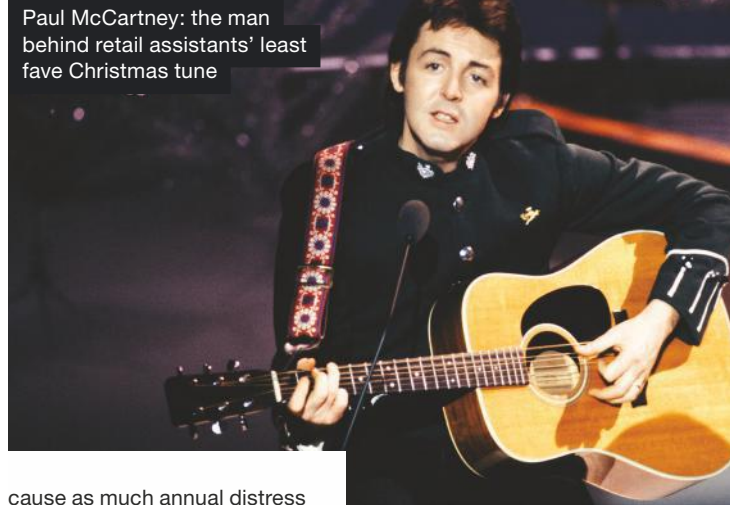
HAPPY DECEMBER 1, THE day it is officially deemed acceptable to start playing Christmas songs in shops, pubs, supermarkets and that place you buy your overpriced cheese sandwiches at lunchtime. We are well aware that some places have flouted this rule already, and their punishment is waiting for them in the next life, but even for those spots doing Christmas music by the book, their insistence on playing seasonal songs is still wildly annoying, especially for the people working there.

Earlier this week *Baby Driver* director Edgar Wright asked his Twitter followers – specifically those who’ve worked in retail – a very important question concerning this enforced party

playlisting. “What Christmas song do you not mind hearing 100 times and which Christmas song sends you plunging into a psychotic abyss?” he asked. The responses were a mixed sack of festive joy and seasonal depression, but without a doubt the biggest loser was Paul McCartney and his relentlessly jaunty 1979 electro-trash single ‘Wonderful Christmastime’. Lacking in not just heart and melody, but warmth and likeability, it is very much not the highpoint of the career of McCartney, a man who was literally in the band that invented pop music, The Beatles. Now, almost 40 years after its original release, the track continues to

“Paul McCartney causes as much annual distress as *EastEnders*”

Paul McCartney: the man behind retail assistants’ least fave Christmas tune



cause as much annual distress as the Christmas episode of *EastEnders*. I’ve only heard it once this year and that’s already once too many. But when it comes to Christmas, one man’s Paul McCartney is another’s Mariah Carey and ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ has a small but dedicated – not to mention deluded – fanbase.

There are some Christmas tunes which are undeniably good, however – tunes that can even withstand the brutal repeats in the run-up to December 25. ‘Fairytale Of New York’ – The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl’s boozy ballad of warring lovers – is, of course, the most obvious, but others include The Pretenders’ ‘2000 Miles’ and then most songs recorded by Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra or any

other crooners with Mafioso connections, a full tumbler of bourbon in one hand and a pipe in the other. As always, this year I’m looking forward to pulling out ‘A Christmas Gift For You From Phil Spector’. Even though it was made by an utter b****d, it remains one of the greatest ever Christmas albums, with The Ronettes, The Crystals and Darlene Love singing huge, sparkling songs made of tinsel, fairy lights and only the purple ones from boxes of Quality Street. Just remember to switch it off before it gets to the final track, which features creepy Uncle Phil himself doing something obscene to ‘Silent Night’. Real-life *Nightmare Before Christmas* stuff right there. @leoniemacooper

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

15
The age of LA star Billie Eilish, the youngest ever nominee for the BBC Sound Of poll.

567
Printers used by YouTube stars OK Go – remember the treadmill dance routine? – for ‘Obsession’, their latest music video.

£51
Fines for beachgoers caught wearing *Borat* mankinis in Kazakhstan (Sacha Baron Cohen offered to foot the bill).

£16.6m
Money made by Kendall Jenner in 2017, making her Forbes’ highest-paid model in the world.

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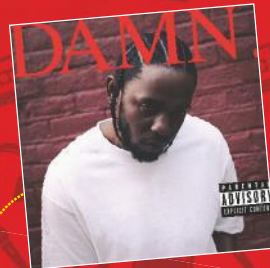


lcd soundsystem
american dream

album of the year

LCD
SOUNDSYSTEM
AMERICAN
DREAM

courtney
barnett &
kurt vile
lotta sea lice



kendrick
lamar
damn.

loyle carner
yesterday's
gone



lana del rey
lust for life



the national
sleep well
beast

lorde
melodrama



idles
brutalism



public service
broadcasting
every valley

wolf alice
visions of
a life



st. vincent
masseduction



father john
misty
pure comedy



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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Sevenoaks



“Knole Park – a beautiful place for a Sunday walk”

◀ OLLIE PAGE 23, civil servant

Listening to:
SZA
Garden (Say It Like Dat)
“Brilliant production. Amazing instrumentation. Stunning voice. I’d recommend it to anyone.”

Wearing: Shore Leave coat, Adidas jumper, ASOS jeans, Nike trainers, Barbour scarf.
Best thing about Sevenoaks: “It’s got to be Knole Park – a beautiful place for a Sunday walk.”

TSITSI DAUGA > 33, trainee accountant

Listening to:
TIM BOWMAN JR
Your Love
“I just discovered him this morning. I’ve been listening to that track all day!”

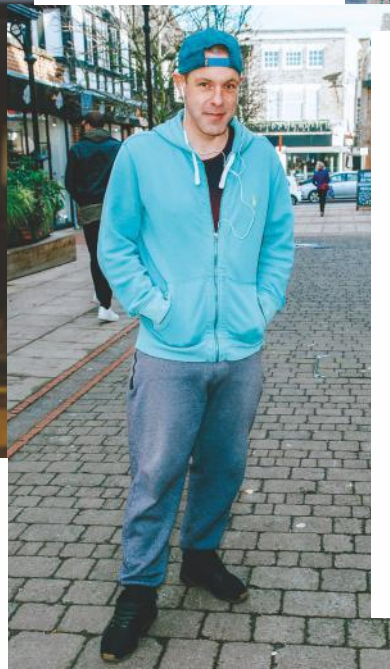
Wearing: House of Fraser coat, Marks & Spencer bag.
Best thing about Sevenoaks: “Eat ‘n’ Mess is a gluten-free coffee shop that I like to hang out in.”



◀ ROBERT SEAL 36, bricklayer

Listening to:
DJ HAZARD
Bricks Don’t Roll
“It’s probably the biggest thing he’s ever put out.”

Wearing: Ralph Lauren hoodie, Adidas tracksuit bottoms, Converse snapback.
Best thing about Sevenoaks: “The Chequers is my favourite place to have a drink. It’s tiny and dates back to the 15th century.”



TESSA SCHILLER > 23, casting assistant

Listening to:
RU PAUL
Sissy That Walk
“If you listen to it walking down the street you’ll reach a new level of confidence.”

Wearing: Vintage coat, New Look jumper, ASOS jeans, Topshop scarf.
Best thing about Sevenoaks: “The Oxfam Bookshop. Quality books, honestly priced.”



PHOTOS: LAURA PALMER



TO

A

TAL

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEAN CHALKLEY

FRNAGE

Leonie Cooper on how rapper, cook, model, writer, campaigner and all-round good guy Loyle Carner owned 2017

BEN COYLE-LARNER has, by anyone's standards, had an *epic* year. The 23-year-old Croydon boy – better known as Britain's hottest hip-hopper Loyle Carner – released his magnificent, old-school-flavoured debut album 'Yesterday's Gone', travelled the world and scored a hell of a lot of vintage football shirts in the process. "God, I've been busy," he says 10 minutes into our chat, as we start reeling off everything he's been up to over the past 12 months, from festivals and far-flung tours to awards ceremonies and rave reviews. We sat down with the best thing to happen to hip-hop in the UK since the birth of MF Doom to digest the biggest and best bits.

...

"HIP-HOP COMES FROM POETRY AND JAZZ AND PAIN. IT DOESN'T COME FROM A MAN SLAPPING A WOMAN."

MAKING PEOPLE CRY AT GLASTONBURY

"We were playing at the same time as Run The Jewels so I'd already decided in my head that nobody was going to come and the tent would be a quarter full," says Carner of his Worthy Farm experience. How wrong he was: the John Peel tent was totally rammo. "My friends were there, which was nice, my mum was there, which was even nicer, and a few of my enemies were there,

which was *even better!*" Much of Carner's music is a tribute to his mum, Jean, who even features on his album, reading a poem about her son. So it came as no surprise when he whisked her onto the Glasto stage, picked her up and spun her around like something from *Strictly Come Dancing*. "It had to be done – I wanted her to get the cheer that she deserved." It wasn't just an emotional show for Carner and his family, either. "At the end there were loads of guys crying and hugging each other. I thought that was the most important thing. Men crying is essential, to stop men from holding it in and developing mental health issues – just to let it out – it's a really, really special thing to see that, so it was one of the highlights of my summer."

"YOU DON'T WANT TO PEAK AT 21. THAT WOULD BE DEPRESSING"

BASKING IN STARS

Carner's first album was released to universal acclaim, with *NME* calling it "confessional, soul-searching and very, very good". In fact, there wasn't one bad review. "I tried my best not to look, so potentially there's something horrible out there..." says Carner, somewhat doubting his excellence. Well, we've double-checked and there isn't. "Sick! For me that's a big deal and I was happy that it was four stars across the board and not five stars because otherwise you've got nowhere to go," he explains. "Also I was 21 when I wrote and recorded it – you don't want to peak at 21, that would be depressing."

TAKING HIP-HOP HOME

New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco – in spring Carner took his version of boom bap old-school hip-hop back to the country where it was born. "I was probably the most nervous I've been about anything. Every show I was petrified," he says of the experience. "There's a lot of things about America that are f**ked up at the moment – especially the president – but the one thing I think Americans do really well is make hip-hop."

RELEASING THE ALBUM

January 20 was a big day for Carner – and for US politics, with Donald Trump's inauguration threatening to overshadow the moment the MC had been working towards for two years. "I was pissed about that!" says Carner. He needn't have worried. Over at London's Rough Trade East, where the album was launched, people were more concerned about getting their hands on some grub from him: Loyle didn't just bring the tunes, he brought lunch, too. "I was serving chili con Carner – pardon the pun. I cooked it the night before at home in my kitchen – we bought two industrial vats and cooked one beef brisket chili and a veggie chili with Quorn mince." Bigly.

When Loyle met Eni

Loyle Carner and England football hero Eniola Aluko spoke at NME Lifehacks on November 23. Here's why Loyle loves Eni

"Firstly, she plays football. I would love for my daughter to play football, because football's sick and it shouldn't be a gender-specific sport. Secondly, she stood up to the England manager, Mark Sampson. He said, in jest, 'I hope your family don't bring Ebola to Wembley'. I'm mixed race and I've experienced stuff like that myself. When everyone you've grown up with in the team is going, 'We stand beside this manager', to stand by it and not be scared away is brilliant. And thirdly, because women's football doesn't pay enough money, she is also a lawyer. She was playing football at weekend and scoring goals and midweek she's putting people in prison."

Read more about NME Lifehacks on page 15 and NME.com

STRIKING A POSE

2017 was also the year Loyle Carner became a model, starring in a Burberry advert and also fronting a fancy fragrance campaign. "Oh, for f**k's sake," he says, head practically in his hands, at mention of his modelling work. "I look like a frog!" YSL didn't think so: after seeing him bulls**tting his way through the weather forecast on French telly, he was called up and asked to be the face of their new fragrance. "They said, 'We'll also give you enough cash to pay off your mum's mortgage,' and I was like, 'You know what? I'll do it!'"

RECEIVING A MERCURY NOMINATION

Alongside albums from Ed Sheeran, Stormzy, J Hus, Alt-J, The xx and more, 'Yesterday's Gone' was nominated for one of the most prestigious music prizes around. "I cried, man," he says. "It's the only one I really care about, because it's the only one that you don't have to win. It's the one that you can be nominated for and *that* is the accolade. It puts you in the conversation, and being part of the conversation is all I've ever wanted to be, not having to be the Number One." In the end, Sampha's 'Process' came out top, but Carner genuinely couldn't have been more chuffed. "Sampha deserves it – he's been working so hard for so long! Also there's no way I could have handled it, the pressure of going to every interview and people saying, 'So the UK reckon you're the left-thinking genius of 2017?' But he is!"

BEING PUBLISHED

Not just a rapper, but something of a social activist too, this year Carner wrote the foreword to *Dyslexia Is My Superpower (Most Of The Time)*, a book for young people about the condition he was diagnosed with when he was a kid, along with ADHD. "Things can be s**t and I know if I was 12 years old and was really struggling, [it would have helped] if I had someone who was 20-odd years old who was a rapper or whatnot and could come and chat to me and ask, 'What do you like to do, what don't you like to do, don't worry about that, those kids don't matter, you're not stupid...'" Loyle Carner doesn't just want to make brilliant songs, he also wants to make life easier for people that have problems, and this is why we really, really like Loyle Carner.

STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

In October Carner made headlines after he chucked a male crowd member out of a show for shouting lewd comments at a female member of Carner's support act. "You can't disrespect a woman like that while she's onstage – especially at a show like mine, where all I talk about is how much I love my mum and that I was raised by women," says Carner. "It blew up and I was happy that it did, because it shined a light on all that was happening. People were going, 'What do you expect at a hip-hop show?' and I was like, 'That's the whole reason I kicked this guy out, because that's not what hip-hop is. Hip-hop comes from poetry and jazz and blues and pain and people expressing how they feel, it doesn't come from a man slapping a woman or telling her that she's nothing but a body part. I don't give a f**k what you think it is – I know what I think it is and what it is supposed to be in 2017.'" Amen.

PLAYING A MASSIVE BIRTHDAY GIG

Carner celebrated his 23rd birthday on October 6 by inviting 5,000 friends and fans to a huge show at O2 Academy Brixton, close to the site of the Honest Burger he was fired from for accidentally breaking a load of champagne bottles. "It was special – really, really special. I was so nervous and loads of s**t went wrong, but we didn't care," he says of the show. DJ Rebel Kleff's hands were shaking so much that he managed to switch off the power on the decks halfway through the first song, cutting out the whole track. Oops. "I just kept on going and everyone thought it was meant to happen, but it *really* wasn't."

SWAPPING SHIRTS

Football-crazy Carner expanded his collection this year, when a fan offered him the England 1990 alternative kit in exchange for free tickets to his show. "I brought that guy onto the bus. That guy can have whatever he wants – within reason; I've been trying to get that kit for years." Carner, who often plays while holding onto his late step-dad's football shirt, found out that fans too were bringing shirts that used to belong to their deceased relatives, so they could come to the shows with them. "It was a beautiful thing to have sparked and long may it continue."

BLACK MIRROR

DARK MATTER

With a new season of *Black Mirror* hitting Netflix later this month, **Dan Stubbs** talked technology, Tinder and turds with co-showrunner **Charlie Brooker**

You won an Emmy for the 'San Junipero' episode of *Black Mirror*. Where do you keep the statue?

"I traded it for heroin. No, actually, it's in a box but it's coming out for Christmas."

Did you see the story that did the rounds about Ross from *Friends* coming up with the premise for 'San Junipero' in an old episode of the show?

"I don't think the notion of consciousnesses being uploaded to a computer came from Ross from *Friends* – I'd certainly heard that concept before. We must have stolen it from elsewhere. He's not even real!"

Apparently *Black Mirror* is one of the most binge-raced series on Netflix, which means people bash through it really quickly. Do you think that's strictly healthy?

"They must just want to get it over with quickly. It surprises me because we have a definite ending to each episode. You feel as though you've had a full meal. You know what I mean? You've eaten your dessert and everything, and now here comes the starter again. I mean, these people are psychotic."

***Black Mirror* has become an adjective in a sense: people say, "That's very *Black Mirror*". Is it nice have created something that's become a part of the cultural conversation?**

"People say it to me, but it's hard to know how widespread that is as a 'thing'. Growing up I watched *The Twilight Zone*, and people would say, 'Oh, that's a bit *Twilight Zone*'. So, if you come up with something that has that kind of resonance with people, that's a good thing."

A new version of *The Twilight Zone* is in production – do you think that's inspired by *Black Mirror*'s success?

"Well, there's a lot of anthology shows coming up at the moment and I think that's partly a cyclical thing because anthology shows are the oldest format of television show there is – apart from a test card – and partly because of online and on-demand platforms. On a traditional network, it's harder to get people to come back week after week because there are no cliffhangers. Whereas now, everything comes up to you in your magic online cupboard, so that doesn't matter."

Jodie Foster directed an episode in the new season. How did that come about?

"Well, she's done shows for Netflix before – *Orange Is The New Black*, *House Of Cards*, things like that. So, Netflix passed her the script, which she liked, and then we had a Skype chat, which is quite a moment, isn't it? A Skype chat with Jodie Foster. She is super-smart and extremely grounded, you would say extremely grounded for anyone – let alone someone who's been in the public eye since they were about four years old."

That episode is about technology that protects kids from nastiness in a way that's very *Black Mirror*. Is that a pressing concern for you, as a father?

"Yeah, I mean, I don't know if you've got kids at all – you might as well, it's worth doing – but it absolutely destroys your life in a good way. You immediately drop down in your list of priorities and you have this primal urge to protect them."

So the episode is more of a personal fantasy?

"Definitely, if the technology existed, it would be very hard – almost impossible – to say no to. I mean, you can get GPS trackers now and I can absolutely see the value of that. If you had a GPS tracker on your child's shoe and they go missing on holiday, you're going to be completely and utterly relieved and delighted that you've bought that device. The gizmos in our show aren't necessarily bad; it's the ramifications of people finding it hard to resist using them in certain ways."

So it's not the tech, it's the humans?

"Yeah, we're the problem."

Have we unlocked the message of the show there?

"We welcome our robot overlords! No, I'm wary of the show having a message at all."

"THE GIZMOS IN OUR SHOW AREN'T BAD, IT'S THE HUMANS WHO USE THEM. WE WELCOME OUR ROBOT OVERLORDS!"

Season's greetings

Showrunners Charlie Brooker and Annabel Jones talk us through the new season



USS CALLISTER
Annabel: "It's a space epic, quite comedic and quite a romp – even though it still has moments of darkness and brutality."

Do new gizmos often inspire stories?

"Sometimes it'll literally come from saying, 'We haven't done an episode set in space, how would that work?' What we don't do is go, 'Oh, I see Apple have invented this new device, I wonder what story we could get out of that'. We don't go through the technology pages and look for stories."

One of the new episodes is about online dating. As a married man, do you sympathise with modern singles?

"Well, yeah, it does look like a nightmare. Although the episode is not quite about that in a way. I know there's people using Tinder and stuff like that, but I'm so old now I don't really know what it is. As far as I can see, is it gamifying relationships and things like that?"

Sort of, yeah. You match with people based on what they look like.

"Right, so it's just codifying something people do in real life. I mean, who f**king cares what people do. I tend to sit indoors all the time."

You've spoken before about how you don't like being thought of as a Luddite, but is there a recent technological development that you've kind of despaired of?

"Is there for you?"

Yeah, probably that spray you spritz into the toilet when you're on a date so they can't tell you've had a poo at their house.

"VIPoo? No, that's brilliant. The only thing that would make that better is if there was a thing you could stick on your bumhole that actually laminated the poo as it came out. Why is that a bad invention?! I mean, the name of that product leaves something to be desired, but what else are they going to call it?"

Slid Vicious?"

NME

Black Mirror season four is on Netflix later this year

"DID ROSS FROM FRIENDS COME UP WITH THE PLOT FOR BLACK MIRROR'S 'SAN JUNIPERO' EPISODE? NO – HE'S NOT EVEN REAL!"

PHOTOS: CHRIS FLOYD, NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY LONDON, PA WIRE



ARKANGEL

Annabel: "It's an indie drama set in America, about a mother and daughter."



CROCODILE

Charlie: "It's a noir-tech, tech-noir thriller."



HANG THE DJ

Charlie: "It's as close as we get to a romcom – something to look forward to."



METALHEAD

Annabel: "It's almost a survival horror. It's the scariest one, because it feels quite real."



BLACK MUSEUM

Charlie: "It's three stories in one, our [Simpsons episode] 'Treehouse Of Horror', so it's an anthology within an anthology."



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PREACHER MAN

Spiritual Cali R&B star and former teen preacher Miguel tells Jordan Bassett about latest album 'War & Leisure', being compared to Prince and that time he landed on two women at the Billboard Music Awards

'War & Leisure' is more straight-up and fun than your experimental 2015 album 'Wildheart'. Why?

"I want to be a popular artist. I want my music to reach the masses – I think that's the better way of saying it."

'Wildheart' won critical acclaim, but it was, well, a weird record...

"There's, like, brand deposits and brand withdrawals. 'Wildheart' was a major brand deposit. It said something about what I stand for. The critical reception was incredible and I feel so blessed. It was definitely a different feel for me. On the human side, that was an adjustment. But I can look back at it and say, 'I still f**king love this album.'"

What was it like working with Mariah Carey on 2014's '#Beautiful'?

"Awesome. She's probably one of the most underrated people when it comes to people knowing how involved she is in the creative side of things. She's a really, really amazing writer."

People are critical of her live performances, which often go viral for being subpar. Is that unfair, do you think?

"I'm not just being politically correct – I would say this anyway – we all want to see Mariah be amazing. I know I do. I think that's all it is. When people see their idols and people that they love not at their best, they just want to see them at their best."

Chapter and verse

A quick flick through Miguel's albums to date

'ALL I WANT IS YOU' (2010)

Miguel didn't hit his stride immediately: this debut is unremarkable (though very saucy) R&B-by-numbers.

'KALEIDOSCOPE DREAM' (2012)

It goes a bit The Weeknd on this woozy collection of strung-out R&B, which boasts the surprise hit 'Adorn'.

'WILDHEART' (2015)

Miguel arrives. This rock-influenced exodus that was, in part, an homage to his Queen and Led Zeppelin-loving father.

'WAR & LEISURE' (2017)

A crack at the mainstream, Miguel's new one parties hard with bangers such as louché lead single 'Sky Walker'.

Do you think you would have still reached this kind of self-acceptance if you were, for example, waiting tables?

"Yeah, I think it has to do with your own work on yourself and figuring your s**t out."

You tried to jump across two stages at the Billboard Music Awards in 2013 and, instead, accidentally landed on two women. That clip went viral. How did all that feel?

"Oh, man. Embarrassing. But... funny? (Looks uncertain) OK, embarrassing. I think it was the beginning of this part of the culture where the laugh is actually bigger [than the attempted stunt]. These sorts of things are actually good for you, you know? The spectacle of it. But it was terrifying. I carried on with the performance, because what else was I supposed to do on live television? I did the best that I could."

You've been compared to Prince throughout your career...

"No one's ever gonna be Prince. He's the standard of excellence. Everywhere. He is the ultimate artist. The absolute student of music and everything else. Excellence across the board."

Did those early comparisons to ever put you under pressure?

"In the beginning I was like, 'I don't know...', but I started to take it as a compliment and understand that no one's actually expecting me to be Prince. I don't feel like I'm trying to prove that I'm going to do anything close to Prince. Because I'm going to do my thing instead."

NME

RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

BEST FOR GETTING MOTIVATED

CRAIG DAVID FEAT. BASTILLE
I Know You

Craig David teams up with the guys from Bastille for a powerful, soaring winter anthem.

BEST FOR PRETENDING IT'S SUMMER

JIDENNA

Boomerang

Be transported back to warmer days with Jidenna's smooth sunshine sounds.

BEST FOR THE GYM

DIPLO FEAT. MØ

Get It Right

When Diplo and MØ get together, magic happens. 'Get It Right' is no exception. Pop this inspirational belter on during your workout and beat your PB.

BEST FOR REACHING THE HIGH NOTES

RAE MORRIS

Atletico

Fun falsetto electronic pop from the former Bombay Bicycle Club associate.

BEST FOR GETTING HOT UNDER THE COLLAR

SHAME

One Rizla

The most exciting young band in the UK, south London post-punk reprobates Shame walk the line between The Libertines and Happy Mondays. Awesome.

Best NEW tracks

And when to drop them

BEST FOR GETTING SAUCY

STEFFLON DON

FEAT. SKEPTA

Ding-A-Ling

Two of London's greatest talents join forces for a down and dirty grimehall banger.

BEST FOR SWOONING

SUFJAN STEVENS

The Greatest Gift

Folksy loveliness with a sweet, seasonal message from the king of all things delicate and totes emosh.

BEST FOR TALKIN' 'BOUT A REVOLUTION

GREEN DAY

Back In The USA

Billie Joe and the boys mix up their punk with some politics, calling out the "crazies on parade" currently making America terrible again.

BEST FOR HANGING OUT WITH PALS

GHETT5

Slumdog Millionaire

It's the second appearance for Stefflon Don in this week's Best New Tracks – here she is singing the hook on grime MC Ghetts' moody new tune.

BEST FOR BEING NAUTICAL BUT NICE

BULLION

Blue Pedro

A trop-house cover of the *Blue Peter* theme should, by rights, be dogs**t. Turns out it's the best thing we've heard all year. Madness.



FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
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Mr Lover Lover

The R&B saucepot lets it all hang out with his vibetastic fourth album

MIGUEL

War & Leisure



POP BONKING BASS

WHAT, EXACTLY, does Miguel want? Listening to the lusty slow jams that make up fourth album 'War & Leisure', you'd be forgiven for thinking this loverman mainly wants a nice cuddle. It wasn't always this way, though.

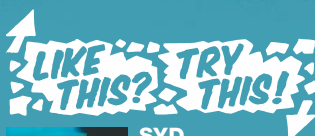
Speaking to *NME* this week (see page 29), the musician explained that critically lauded 2015 album 'Wildheart' said "something about what I stand for", but lacked commercial success. Back then, he wanted to be an *artist*. Right now he wants to be a pop star. This new record is stuffed with killer hooks, bouncing rhythms and breezy production, with Travis Scott-featuring lead single 'Sky Walker' racking up more than 28 million YouTube views since August. The force is most definitely with Miguel.

Even better is sunny standout 'Pineapple Skies', which offers an excellent homage to a musical hero: "Don't forget to hold on tight / While we Stevie Wonder through the night". The languid 'Come Through And Chill,' featuring J. Cole, is another crisp, minimalist highlight. These are masterful pop songs constructed to sound effortless.

True, 'War & Leisure' lacks the obvious identity that has marked out Miguel's previous three albums, but that's no fault. By comparison, this is a compelling collection of popstastic R&B tracks made to soundtrack your night out. Kick back and listen up, because Miguel insists you have a great time in 2018. **Jordan Bassett**



ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK



SYD

Fin

A steamed-up standout from the brains of Sydney Loren Bennett, formerly of Odd Future and present head of R&B troupe The Internet.

Losing their edge

U2's fourteenth album won't mysteriously appear on your iPhone, which is probably for the best

U2

Songs Of Experience



STADIUMS POLITICS WRINKLES

WHEN U2 conspired with Apple to force their last album 'Songs Of Innocence' uninvited onto every phone on the planet in 2014, it was a sign of a band shoulder-deep in their own self-important backside. Thankfully the backlash has deflated Bono's messianic ego to the point where only people showing a modicum of interest in owning the follow-up album 'Songs Of Experience' will be given it, and mostly for cash.

Yes, U2 have made the 'adult' sequel to their semi-autobiographical 'childhood' album, full of platitudes about the comfort of home and the power of love. It's just as anodyne as their previous

iPhone clogger. They're old masters at pumping up whatever the kids are buying, so hefty swathes of the album could be Bastille ('Red Flag Day', 'Get Out Of Your Own Way'), and there are bits of Kanye autotune tacked onto amorphous opener 'Love Is All We Have Left'.

Otherwise '...Experience' resembles a pastiche of other bands' tame U2 pastiches. When by-rrote big ballads 'The Little Things That Give You Away' and 'Landlady' autopilot

along, the untutored ear might think they're ripping off Coldplay's 'Up&Up' or The Killers' 'Miss Atomic Bomb'.

There are brief flashes of 'Vertigo' vitality, notably

when they bemoan the current political s**tstorms on 'The Blackout'. But overall, U2 have built a stadium rock cruise liner they've zero interest in rocking, and '...Experience' is 50 minutes of very plain sailing indeed. **Mark Beaumont**



STRANGE & TRUE

'Songs Of Experience' was originally slated for late 2016, but Bono decided to scrap verses and write more politically-inspired lyrics in the wake of Brexit and Donald Trump's presidency.

Larry Mullen Jr, The Edge, Adam Clayton, Bono



There will be tears

Prepare to sob at child prodigy Jacob Tremblay's portrayal of a boy suffering from a rare genetic condition

WONDER

PG Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson



BULLIES MIRACLES HANKIES

IN OSCAR-WINNING 2015 film *Room*, Jacob Tremblay gave a performance not just great for a child actor, but for an actor of any age. *Wonder* shows that *Room* was no fluke. Tremblay is powerful but subtle

as August Pullman, a boy who suffers from a genetic condition that has caused him significant facial deformity.

The film certainly isn't light-handed in trying to move you. It really works to drag those tears out. The story follows August's journey through middle school, after years being taught at home. It's a terrifying prospect for a child who blends in, but far more so for one who stands out like Auggie. There are bullies; there are betrayals by friends; there are moments of triumph. Emotional beats are hit *hard*, but they work. They're manipulative, but effectively so, because the characters are easy to like. Julia Roberts is

comfortingly Julia Roberts-y as Auggie's mum and Owen Wilson gets to be 'silly old dad' who drops in occasionally for light relief.

This is by-the-book weepy. You can see exactly where it's going from scene one. Or at least you could, if your eyes were not permanently fogged up with tears. **Olly Richards**



L-r: Nate (Owen Wilson), Isabel (Julia Roberts), Auggie (Jacob Tremblay), Via (Izabela Vidovic), Miranda (Danielle Rose Russell)

FOR FANS OF



Neighbourhood (don't) Watch

Despite boasting a full house of star names, George Clooney's murder mystery doesn't live up to its billing

SUBURBICON

15 Matt Damon, Julianne Moore, Oscar Isaac



MURDER RACISM SECRETS

ON PAPER, *SUBURBICON* should be a classic. It's directed by George Clooney, it began life as a Coen brothers script and it stars Oscar-winners Matt Damon and Julianne Moore. All in all, the perfect recipe for a big hit. Unfortunately, what we end up with is a disappointing murder mystery that wastes its potential.

Set in the 1950s, it follows Gardner Lodge (Damon), a mild-mannered businessman whose world is shattered when burglars break in and poison his already sickly wife Margaret (Moore). Following the tragedy, Gardner's sister-in-law Rose (also Moore) moves in to help steady the ship. But when the pair fail to pick out the thieves in a police line-up, and they're caught in bed together, our suspicions are raised. Could it all be an elaborate con? Meanwhile, an African-American family moves in next door, which sends the ultra-conservative, all-white

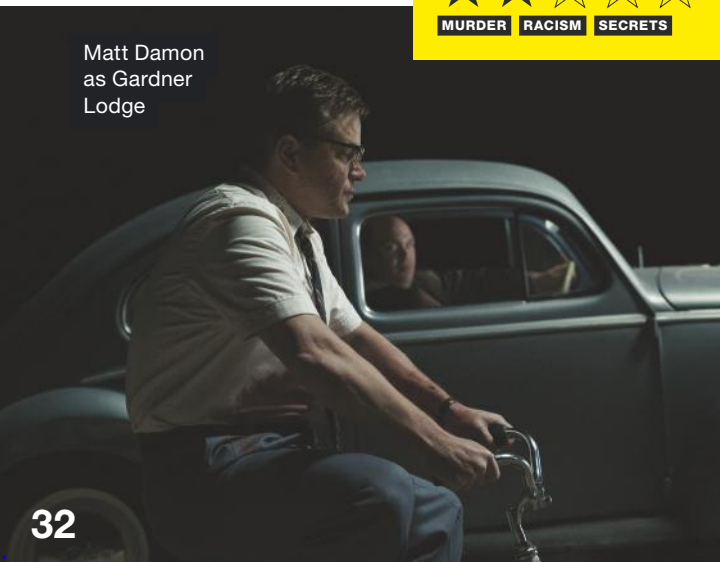
STRANGE & TRUE

This is the sixth film Clooney has directed, but the first in which he has not also starred.

community into uproar. It all slowly builds to a violent and explosive finale.

The intention is clear – to create an unorthodox thriller that also comments on deep-rooted racism in American society. But it manages neither with any skill or originality. The humour feels off – quirky yet unfeeling – and the black characters barely get a line. It's like Clooney wanted to make two movies but lacked the cash, so he mashed them into one uneven epic. Predictably, it doesn't quite work. *Suburbicon* is a patchy affair that fails to prove it's worth more than the sum of its impressive parts. **Alex Flood**

Matt Damon as Gardner Lodge



Mahalia

Super-smooth R&B from Leicester

MAHALIA IS MAKING moves. After a live session of her performing went viral last month, the 19-year-old's Twitter following doubled to a healthy 26K, and she swiftly announced a set of live dates – several of which sold out immediately. Smooth manoeuvres indeed. Yet it was her decision to return to her native Leicester after a year in London that really changed everything.

"When I left Leicester to come to London, aged 18, I was happy to leave," she says. "But I realised it was a bit too much for me. I needed to focus, and I got that once I left." Having signed a major-label record deal aged just 13 – and released a variety of fingerpicking pop projects – moving to the capital had felt like the next step. "You definitely feel like you are losing something not living there," she

admits. "I totally did at the time."

The move back proved fruitful, however. It was where she wrote her breakout song, 'Sober': think an R&B version of Dua Lipa's 'New Rules'. "I think with age and experience comes a certain maturity in writing," she says. "When I showed the song to my mates, and they were able to relate to it, things started working cohesively for me." Follow-up 'Hold On' confirmed that her revamped sound was finally clicking.

Perhaps it's a blessing that it took a little while, as 2017 feels like the prime time for young female acts to take over. "It felt very male-dominated before; now there is that space for us to come through," she says. "When Jorja Smith and Mabel burst out, everybody else was like, 'Cool, this is our time, let's do it all together' – and it's working... Not that I'd put myself in that bracket, necessarily," she admits. But whether Mahalia likes it or not, she's very much a part of that group gloriously storming into the mainstream. Just another step in the right direction, then.

Thomas Smith

DETAILS

From: Leicester
Social: @MahaliaMusic
Buy: 'Hold On' is out now
Live: Omeara, London (Mar 14)

STRANGEST TRUE

Though 'Sober' was Mahalia's breakout song, she initially "hated" it and nearly binned it completely.

Best track

'SOBER'
This track is stuffed with wise lyrics and her silky-smooth vocals. A delight.

FOR FANS OF



JORJA SMITH



SZA



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PHOTO CREDIT: AARON PARSONS

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 OSLO - LONDON



PALACE WINTER

TUESDAY 20 MARCH
 SEBRIGHT ARMS - LONDON



BANFI

THURSDAY 22 MARCH
 OSLO - LONDON



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VILLAGE UNDERGROUND
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live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS



Definitely Mabel

Britain's brightest new R&B star is touring next year

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Mabel said the weirdness of Sugababes' debut album made it one of her musical touchstones. "That record's pop," she said, "but they didn't tailor it to the

mainstream – that sound became pop. That's what I want to do." Six months later, and Mabel's off-kilter, Kojo Funds-featuring single 'Finders Keepers' has spent five weeks in the UK Top 10

over the past few weeks. Expect her recent mixtape 'Ivy And Roses' to provide plenty more mainstream-altering singles before she embarks on tour across the UK next year.

MABEL R&B maverick

APRIL 2018

Wed 18 Wardrobe, Leeds. **Thu 19** Rescue Rooms, Nottingham.
Sun 22 Band on the Wall, Manchester. **Mon 23** O2 ABC 2, Glasgow. **Wed 25** O2 Forum Kentish Town, London.

TICKETS: £13.75-£16

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DREAM WIFE

Punk-rock trio

MARCH 2018

Tue 20 Exchange, Bristol. **Wed 21** Heaven, London. **Fri 23** Stereo, Glasgow. **Sat 24** Deaf Institute, Manchester.

TELL ME MORE: Dream Wife's live shows typically begin and end with raucous bangers 'Hey Heartbreaker' and 'Let's Make Out'. **TICKETS:** £11

ON SALE NOW



PALE WAVES

Future indie-pop titans

FEBRUARY 2018

Mon 19 Forum, Tunbridge Wells. **Tue 20** Boileroom, Guildford. **Thu 22** Storey's Field Centre, Cambridge. **Fri 23** Westgarth Social Club, Middlesbrough. **Sat 24** Studio 2, Liverpool. **Mon 26** Cellar, Oxford. **Tue 27** Cookie, Leicester. **Wed 28** Chapel, Leeds.

MARCH 2018

Thu 1 Sugarmill, Stoke. **Fri 2** O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Sun 4** King Tut's, Glasgow. **Mon 5** Leadmill, Sheffield. **Tue 6** Gorilla, Manchester. **Wed 7** Garage, London. **Thu 8** Thekla, Bristol.

TELL ME MORE: Pale Waves are naturals at writing huge, anthemic choruses. **TICKETS:** £8.80-£11

ON SALE NOW

SHAME

South London indie crew

APRIL 2018

Wed 4 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff. **Thu 5** Thekla, Bristol. **Fri 6** Magnet, Liverpool. **Mon 9** Leadmill, Sheffield. **Tue 10** Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. **Wed 11** Cluny, Newcastle. **Thu 12** Stereo, Glasgow. **Fri 13** Gorilla, Manchester. **Sat 14** Rescue Rooms, Nottingham. **Mon 16** Cookie, Leicester. **Tue 17** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Wed 18** Electric Ballroom, London. **Thu 19** Bullingdon, Oxford. **Fri 20** Haunt, Brighton. **Sat 21** Forum, Tunbridge Wells.

TELL ME MORE: The frenetic five-piece's debut album 'Songs Of Praise' is shaping up to be an early highlight of 2018. **TICKETS:** £9.35-£12.50

ON SALE NOW



FRANK CARTER

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

ALEX CAMERON

Sat 2 Mono, Glasgow. **Sun 3** Cluny, Newcastle. **Mon 4** Bodega, Nottingham. **Tue 5** Scala, London. **Wed 6** Deaf Institute, Manchester.

ALGIERS

Mon 4 Cluny, Newcastle. **Tue 5** Exchange, Bristol.

AMINÉ

Tue 5 Heaven, London. **Wed 6** Academy, Manchester.

BENJAMIN CLEMENTINE

Sun 3 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds. **Mon 4** O2 Ritz, Manchester. **Tue 5** O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Wed 6** Sage, Gateshead.

BRYSON TILLER

Fri 1 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester. **Sun 3** Eventim Apollo, London.

CONFIDENCE MAN

Tue 5 The Deaf Institute, Manchester. **Wed 6** XOYO, London. **Thu 7** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham.

COSMO PYKE

Tue 5 Garage, London.

DESTROYER

Fri 1 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds. **Mon 4** Deaf Institute, Manchester. **Tue 5** CCA, Glasgow. **Wed 6** The Cluny, Newcastle. **Thu 7** Scala, London.

FEMME

Sat 2 Soup Kitchen, Manchester. **Sun 3** Broadcast, Glasgow. **Wed 6** Heaven, London.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

Fri 1 O2 Academy, Bristol. **Sat 2** O2 Institute, Birmingham. **Sun 3** O2 Ritz, Manchester. **Tue 5** O2 ABC, Glasgow. **Wed 6** Rock City, Nottingham. **Thu 7** UEA, Norwich.

FUJIYA & MIYAGI

Thu 7 Patterns, Brighton.

GOOD CHARLOTTE

Fri 1 O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Sat 2** Academy, Manchester. **Sun 3** O2 Academy Brixton, London.

GORILLAZ

Fri 1 Arena, Manchester. **Sat 2** Arena, Birmingham. **Mon 4** & **Tue 5** The O2, London.

HOOKWORMS

Sun 3 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds.

HURTS

Thu 7 O2 Academy Brixton, London.

J HUS

Wed 6 UEA, Norwich.

JAMIROQUAI

Sun 3 & **Wed 6** The O2, London.

JAWS

Fri 1 O2 Institute, Birmingham.

JUST JACK HOUSE MUSIC

Sat 2 Som Saa, London.

KASABIAN

Fri 1 & **Sat 2** The O2, London. **Mon 4** Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff. **Tue 5** Echo Arena, Liverpool. **Thu 7** First Direct Arena, Leeds.

MASTODON

Sat 2 University SU, Cardiff. **Mon 4** Wolves Civic, Wolverhampton. **Tue 5** Rock City, Nottingham. **Wed 6** Northumbria University SU, Newcastle. **Thu 7** Barrowland, Glasgow.

PULLED APART BY HORSES

Fri 1 Strings Bar & Venue, Newport. **Sun 3** The Hub, Plymouth. **Mon 4** Sticky Mike's Frog Bar, Brighton. **Tue 5** Sin City, Swansea. **Thu 7** The Venue, Derby.

PUMAROSA

Fri 1 Gorilla, Manchester. **Sat 2** King Tut's, Glasgow. **Mon 4** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Tue 5** Thekla, Bristol. **Wed 6** Electric Brixton, London.

RAY BLK

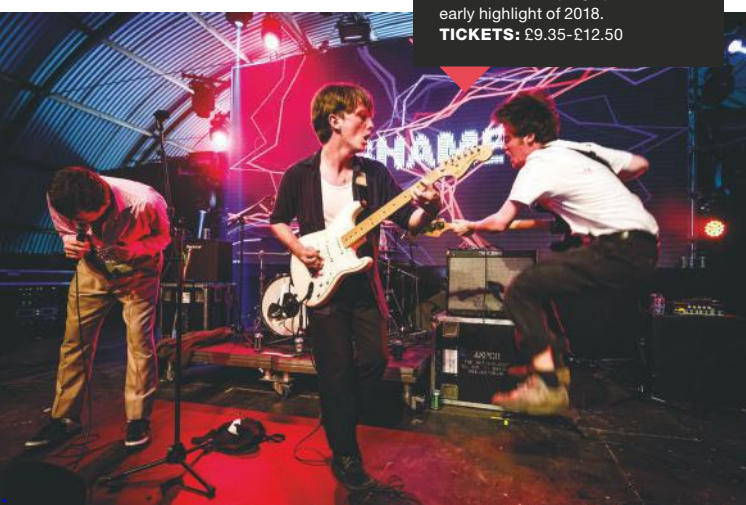
Sat 2 O2 Institute, Birmingham. **Sun 3** Band on the Wall, Manchester. **Mon 4** O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London.

WILD FRONT

Sat 2 The Brickyard, Carlisle. **Mon 4** The Harley, Sheffield. **Tue 5** Think Tank?, Newcastle. **Wed 6** Church, Leeds. **Thu 7** Mash House, Edinburgh.

THE WYTTCHES

Fri 1 Soup Kitchen, Manchester. **Sat 2** The Shipping Forecast, Liverpool. **Sun 3** Plug, Sheffield. **Tue 5** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Wed 6** Sin City, Swansea. **Thu 7** Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff.



SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Mary J Blige

R&B legend and star of new Netflix movie *Mudbound*

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

ROY AYERS

Everybody Loves The Sunshine

"I was four years old and living in Hastings, New York. I'd never felt anything like it. It made me feel so many emotions for a little kid. I saw so many colours. Years later I sampled it on one of my songs, 'My Life', because the song was so important to me. It makes me feel good and bad all at the same time."



ROY AYERS

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

NEW EDITION AND AL B. SURE!

Madison Square Garden, New York

"It was amazing – my seats weren't all that great but I was a huge Al B. Sure! fan and I was already a New Edition fan since I was a little kid. So that was a very powerful moment for me. I was so busy singing the songs and thinking, 'Oh my god, I wish I could meet all of them.'"

THE SONG I WISH I'D WRITTEN

JOHN LEGEND

Ordinary People

"It's the lyrics. 'We're just ordinary people / We don't know which way to go / Maybe we should take it slow'. Like, take it slow, take it easy – that alone just gives me the chills, you know? Because we are just people and we are very small in the universe. We should stop trying to be so big and take it easy on each other. It's definitely liberating – it takes a load off. You don't have to carry so much: the universe is gonna carry it for you."

THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

SOUL II SOUL

Keep On Movin'

"We lived in the projects – it's not a cool place to live. Everybody wants to get out. I was in my living room when I first heard 'Keep On Movin'. That song is so optimistic. When Caron Wheeler sang, 'Keep on movin', don't stop... It's our time', it made me believe I was gonna make it, I was gonna get out."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

THE SONG THAT I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

DJ KHALED FEAT. RIHANNA AND BRYSON TILLER

Wild Thoughts

"It's just the beat and the way Rihanna is singing and riding the beat. I am a huge Rihanna fan. I love her for many reasons. She's free – she does what she wants. She says what she wants. She's like a rock'n'roll star. She's just Rihanna and she's not apologetic for any of it."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

GEORGE CLINTON

& PARLIAMENT

(Not Just) Knee Deep

"It makes me wanna go crazy. Of course, De La Soul later used it on 'Me Myself And I'. When I was on tour with Maxwell, we had a party after the show in New Orleans and I played it over and over again."

THE RECORD THAT MADE ME WANT TO MAKE MUSIC

STEVIE WONDER

Songs In The Key Of Life

"I first heard it when I was five and I wanted to sing every song with him. The music was so beautiful. Every time I see him I tell him how much *Songs In The Key Of Life* means to me."

Mudbound is available to stream on Netflix now



The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK
MADONNA

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December 2, 1995

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